

[Translation]

Urea Scam

605. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of the investigation made in the Rs.133 crore urea scam;

(b) the names of countries and banks in which the scam money is deposited;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to get back this money and the steps taken so far in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a Bank Guarantee was furnished by the foreign firm as a security against the advanced payment of Rs. 133 crores;

(f) if so, the amount of Bank Guarantee and whether the said Bank Guarantee has been encashed; and

(g) if not, the kind of security taken from the foreign firm by the Government as a security for the advance payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) The irregularities in the matter relating to the contract signed by M/s. National Fertilisers Ltd. (NFL) for supply of 2 lakh metric tonnes of bagged urea are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI is engaged in conducting the investigation in India as also in various other countries.

(b) The amount involved was credited to the account held by M/s. Karsan Ltd. with Pictet Bank, Geneva, Switzerland.

(c) and (d). Government of Switzerland has been requested to freeze the amounts available in the account of M/s. Karsan Ltd. with Pictet Bank, Geneva and any other connected accounts. The Government of Switzerland has also been requested to seize the amount and repatriate the same to India.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Instead of a Bank Guarantee issued by an international bank of repute outside India, M/s. Karsan Ltd. had offered to provide a first class Lloyds Insurance cover for non-performance and non-delivery of the contracted quantity of urea, which cover was eventually not provided.

[English]

Security to Former Prime Ministers

606. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons getting S.P.G. protection;

(b) whether the relatives of the former Prime Ministers are getting the protection of S.P.G.;

(c) the number of security persons deployed for the purpose; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred for providing S.P.G. protection during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) 29 protectees are entitled to SPG cover. Of these SPG protectees two are residing abroad and get the cover during their visits to India. Protection of four of such protectees will be taken over by SPG soon.

(b) As per the Act, only Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and members of their immediate family which include spouse, children and parents get the SPG protection. No other relatives are entitled to SPG cover.

(c) 1188 persons have been deployed for active security duty of the SPG protectees. Besides, 1074 personnel are engaged in technical, communication, supervisory and other support services.

(d) Total expenditure incurred for providing SPG protection from 1994 to 96 is as follows :

1994-95	-	2404.87 lakhs.
1995-96	-	3289.56 lakhs
1996-97 (upto Oct. 96)	-	1715.93 lakhs.

Export of Wheat and Rice to Pakistan

607. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has requested the Government to supply wheat, rice and sugar in order to tide over the difficult food situation in that country this year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal indicating the cost and quantity thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). The High Commission for Pakistan in India had indicated Pakistan's interest in importing wheat and sugar from India and made certain enquiries regarding specifications and other details. But, no formal request for supply of wheat, rice or sugar has been received. However, M/s. Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., which is the agency for